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3̶0̶. (new) An e-commerce based method for requesting information and purchasing products from a dealer through a manufacturer, the method comprising:

sending a request for detailed dealer information to a manufacturer server system using a client system;

accessing said real-time detailed dealer information with said manufacturer server system from a remote dealer server system via a middleware application system;

receiving said real-time detailed dealer information from said manufacturer server system; and

displaying said real-time detailed dealer information on said client system based on said request.

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3̶1̶. (new) An e-commerce based method for requesting information and purchasing products from a dealer through a manufacturer, the method comprising:

receiving at a manufacturer server system, a request for detailed dealer information sent by a client system;

accessing said real-time detailed dealer information with said manufacturer server system from a remote dealer server system via a middleware application system;

sending said real-time detailed dealer information from said manufacturer server system to said client system; and

displaying said real-time detailed dealer information on said client system based on said request.

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 28 are now pending in the application. New claims 29 - 31 are sought to be added to further describe the claimed invention. The Amendment does not introduce new matter, and the entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and that he withdraw them.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claim(s) as allegedly being "anticipated" by U.S. Patent No. 6,167,383 to Henson. Applicants traverse this rejection based on the following Remarks, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection, and that he withdraw it.

In general, the present invention is associated with the interaction of a client server system, a manufacturer's server system, and a dealer server system for the communication of detailed dealer information. In contrast, Henson discloses the interaction between a customer and a manufacturer. For example, Henson discloses (with reference to Fig. 2 of Henson) the ability for a customer to "access the online store 10 using any suitable computer equipment 40, via the Internet 42." (Col. 4 Line 66 – Col. 5 Line 1). In addition, Henson discloses that "A web-based online store [that] includes a configurator, a cart, a checkout, and a database, further in which a user interface of the online store enables a custom configuration of a computer system according to an identification of a user belonging to a prescribed customer set." [Abstract]

In a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, each and every claim element must be present in the applied reference. However, Henson does not teach or suggest "sending a request for detailed dealer information to a manufacturer server using a client system", as recited in Claim 1 of the present disclosure. The Examiner suggests that Fig. 4, Fig. 5, and Fig. 6 teach "sending a request for detailed dealer information to a manufacturer server using a client system". If however, the Examiner suggests the on-line store of Henson is located on a manufacturer's server system, then there is no indication that the information associated with Fig. 4, Fig. 5, or Fig. 6 is associated with a dealer's detailed information. "Fig. 4 is illustrative of a portion of an exemplary page of the on-line store including a long lead time warning of the customer configured machine method and system and system apparatus of the present disclosure", "Fig. 5 illustrates a portion of an exemplary page including an alternate presentation view of a configuration screen of the on-line store, the alternate presentation view including all system options", "Fig. 6 illustrates a page of a shopping cart of the on-line store according to an embodiment of the customer configured machine method and system apparatus of the present disclosure". [Col. 4 Line 5 – 17]

In addition, Henson does not teach or suggest "accessing said real-time detailed dealer information with said manufacturer server system from a remote dealer server system via a middleware application system", as recited in Claim 1 of the present disclosure. The Examiner suggests that Fig. 1, Fig. 2, and Fig. 3, teach "accessing said real-time detailed

dealer information with said manufacturer server system from a remote dealer server system via a middleware application system". As clearly indicated in Fig.2, Henson does not teach or suggest the interaction of a dealer server system and a manufacturer server system. For example, Fig. 2 illustrates "a customer can access the online store 10 using any suitable computer equipment 40, via the Internet 42." Col. 5 Line 55 – Col. 6 Line 1. If the Examiner suggests the online store of Fig. 2 is associated with the manufacturer's server system, then clearly there is no disclosure or suggestion in Fig. 2 regarding a dealer server system. Likewise, "Fig. 1 illustrates on overview block diagram representation of the on-line store according to the present disclosure" [Col. 3 Line 63 – 64], and "Fig. 3, including 3A, 3B, and 3C illustrate an exemplary page of the on-line store including various features of the customer configured machine method and system apparatus of the present disclosure" [Col. 4 Line 1 – 4]. Therefore, Fig. 1, Fig. 2, or Fig. 3, combined or separate, do not teach or suggest " accessing said real-time detailed dealer information with said manufacturer server system from a remote dealer server system via a middleware application system", as recited in Claim 1 of the present disclosure.

Referring to Claim 8 of the present disclosure, Henson does not teach or suggest "a remote dealer server system in communication with said middleware application system to provide real-time detailed dealer information to said manufacturer server system via said middleware application system with said manufacturer server system able to send said real-time detailed dealer information to said client system for displaying". The Examiner suggests that "a warning indicator for indicating an option which is subject to adversely impact a shipment of the configured computer system, the warning indicator including a lead time warning in connection with an option which is subject to incurring a lengthened lead time for shipment of the configured computer system, which is greater than a prescribed lead time, the prescribed lead time being in accordance with the identification of the user belonging to a prescribed customer set." [Col. 17 Line 25 – 34] teaches "a remote dealer server system in communication with said middleware application system to provide real-time detailed dealer information to said manufacturer server system via said middleware application system with said manufacturer server system able to send said real-time detailed dealer information to said client system for displaying". There is no suggestion in Henson that the lead time information is obtained from a source other than the on-line store. The warning indicator discussed above, and the recited passage in general, does not teach or suggest a dealer server system.

Referring to Claim 15 of the present disclosure, Henson does not teach or suggest "accessing said real-time detailed dealer information with said manufacturer server system from a remote dealer server system via a middleware application system". The Examiner suggest that The Examiner suggests that "a warning indicator for indicating an option which is subject to adversely impact a shipment of the configured computer system, the warning indicator including a lead time warning in connection with an option which is subject to incurring a lengthened lead time for shipment of the configured computer system, which is greater than a prescribed lead time, the prescribed lead time being in accordance with the identification of the user belonging to a prescribed customer set." [Col. 17 Line 25 – 34] teaches "accessing said real-time detailed dealer information with said manufacturer server system from a remote dealer server system via a middleware application system". As discussed above, there is no suggestion in Henson that the lead time information is obtained from a source other than the on-line store. The warning indicator, and the cited passage in general, does not teach or suggest a dealer server system.

Referring to Claim 22 of the present disclosure, Henson does not teach or suggest "a remote dealer server system for sending real-time dealer information to said manufacturer server system via a middleware application system based on said item list received from said manufacture server system via said middleware application system and said manufacturer server system for sending said real-time detailed dealer information to said client system for displaying". The Examiner suggests that "a warning indicator for indicating an option which is subject to adversely impact a shipment of the configured computer system, the warning indicator including a lead time warning in connection with an option which is subject to incurring a lengthened lead time for shipment of the configured computer system, which is greater than a prescribed lead time, the prescribed lead time being in accordance with the identification of the user belonging to a prescribed customer set." [Col. 17 Line 25 – 34] teaches "a remote dealer server system for sending real-time dealer information to said manufacturer server system via a middleware application system based on said item list received from said manufacture server system via said middleware application system and said manufacturer server system for sending said real-time detailed dealer information to said client system for displaying". However, there is no suggestion in Henson that the lead time information is obtained from a source other than the on-line store. The warning indicator, and the cited passage in general, does not teach or suggest a dealer server system.

In view of the aforementioned comments, Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 30, 31 and the associated dependent claims are believed to be allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 17, 19 – 21, 23, 24, and 26 – 28 under the obviousness provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicants believe that since independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 are believed to be allowable, the associated dependent claims are also allowable.

In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, and 24 under the obviousness provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,167,383 to Henson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,117,354 to Long et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Long discloses a system "for the automated pricing and ordering of custom manufactured parts, as for the air handling equipment industry. The system includes software for personal computers of the sales representatives which assists the sales representative in creating product identification codes which specify the specifications of the product to be made. A completed order of such items is deposited in an electronic mail system addressed to the manufacturer. A host computer at the manufacturer periodically polls the electronic mail system for communications and then either prices the quote or processes the order". [Abstract] Therefore, the sales representative disclosed in Long is analogous to the customer disclosed in Henson. Instead of the customer directly entering requested product information, the sales representative in Long is entering the request, for the customer. The request is being delivered to the manufacturer, and the manufacturer responds with the desired price quotes, as was performed in Henson (see Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 of Henson).

Referring to Claim 2, (and analogously Claim 9, 16, and 23) Long does not teach or suggest "sending a quote number from said remote dealer server system with said detailed dealer information for identifying said request". Long does not teach or suggest a dealer server system. As stated above, the sales representative is merely entering the information for the customer. Therefore, the system used by the sales representative is analogous to the system used by customer in Henson. All claim limitations must be considered, especially when they are missing from the prior art. In the present instance, neither Henson or Long, separately or combined, teach or suggest a dealer server system.
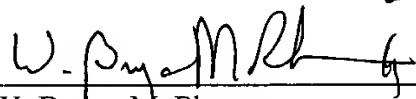
Referring to newly added Claim 29, Long does not teach or suggests "sending said quote to a manufacturer's server system from said dealer server system", and "sending said quote to said client server system from said manufacturer server system". Neither Long or Henson, alone, or combined, teach or suggest a passing a quote number from a dealer server system to a client server system via a manufacturer server system.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 17, 19 – 21, 23, 24, and 26 – 29, as originally filed, patentably distinguish Applicant's invention over the rejections cited by the Examiner, and are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and that he withdraw them. The Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned representative if he believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

V/ Bryan McPherson
Registration No. 41,988
Sr. Patent Attorney
Caterpillar Inc.

Telephone: (309) 675-4015
Facsimile: (309) 675-1236

Marked Up Copy of Amendments pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121

Title: An E-Commerce Based Method and System For Manufacturer Hosting of Virtual
Dealer Stores and Method for Providing a Systemization of Machine Parts
Application No. 09/648,656
Attorney Docket No. 99-722

29(new). A method, as set forth in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

sending said quote number to said manufacturer server system from said dealer server system; and

sending said quote number from said manufacturer server system to said client server system.

30. (new) An e-commerce based method for requesting information and purchasing products from a dealer through a manufacturer, the method comprising:

sending a request for detailed dealer information to a manufacturer server system using a client system;

accessing said real-time detailed dealer information with said manufacturer server system from a remote dealer server system via a middleware application system;

receiving said real-time detailed dealer information from said manufacturer server system; and

displaying said real-time detailed dealer information on said client system based on said request.

31. (new) An e-commerce based method for requesting information and purchasing products from a dealer through a manufacturer, the method comprising:

receiving at a manufacturer server system, a request for detailed dealer information sent by a client system;

accessing said real-time detailed dealer information with said manufacturer server system from a remote dealer server system via a middleware application system;

sending said real-time detailed dealer information from said manufacturer server system to said client system; and

displaying said real-time detailed dealer information on said client system based on said request.